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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

15 CR 73 (RMB)

5 EVGENY BURYAKOV,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x

8 New York, N.Y.

9 March 11, 2016

9:30 a.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. RICHARD M. BERMAN,

12 District Judge

13 APPEARANCES

14 PREET BHARARA

15 United States Attorney for the

16 Southern District of New York

17 STEPHEN RITCHIN

EMIL J. BOVE

BRENDAN QUIGLEY

Assistant United States Attorneys

18 WHITE & CASE

19 Attorneys for Defendant

20 SCOTT HERSHMAN

KELLY NEWMAN

21 DANIEL LEVIN

22 Also present: Nelly Alishaev, Russian interpreter

23 Brandon DeShields, paralegal

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(In open court)

THE COURT: Good morning. Yesterday afternoon I was alerted by the U.S. Attorney's Office that there might be a plea proceeding this morning and it looks like that is what is happening. I take it, Mr. Hershman, that is the purpose of today's proceeding that there would be a plea by Mr. Buryakov?

MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: First of all, let me start by saying it has been our practice in this proceedings to have a stand-by Russian language interpreter. Although for the most part, or at least exclusively, Mr. Buryakov has been able to understand these proceedings in English.

We have the stand-by interpreter again today in case, Mr. Buryakov, you need to have something interpreted.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: So I have received let me note at the outset a document that we call an Advice of Rights form signed by Mr. Buryakov and Mr. Hershman, and that is a document which generally speaking advises of some of the consequences of pleading guilty.

Mr. Hershman, you went over that Advice of Rights form carefully with Mr. Buryakov?

MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

THE COURT: And, Mr. Buryakov, before you signed it, you discussed it fully with your attorney, Mr. Hershman?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 THE COURT: And I also have a copy of a letter dated
3 March 9, 2016, which is a plea agreement signed also by the
4 government and by Mr. Hershman and Mr. Buryakov.

5 Mr. Hershman, you went over that plea agreement
6 carefully with Mr. Buryakov before each of you signed it?

7 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov, you understand fully what is
9 contained in the plea agreement?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 So, Mr. Hershman, it is clear then that Mr. Buryakov
13 wishes to change his plea from not guilty to guilty with
14 respect to one count of the current superseding indictment,
15 known as S1 15 CR 73; is that a correct understanding?

16 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

17 THE COURT: So I am going to ask Christine Murray to
18 swear in Mr. Buryakov at this time.

19 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Sir, if you could stand for a
20 moment, please, and raise your right hand.

21 (Defendant sworn)

22 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Thank you, sir. You may be seated.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov, do you understand having
24 been sworn under oath your answers to my questions must be
25 truthful and could subject you to criminal penalties of perjury

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1 or making a false statement if you do not answer truthfully; do
2 you realize that?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Before I can accept your guilty plea, I am
5 going to ask you a series of questions. It takes about 20
6 minutes, give or take, and the purpose of these questions is to
7 establish to my satisfaction that you in fact wish to plead
8 guilty and that you do so voluntarily and knowingly and because
9 you are guilty and also to establish that you know just what
10 rights you will be giving up by pleading guilty today pursuant
11 to this plea agreement.

12 So if you don't understand any of my questions or if
13 at any time you wish to consult with Mr. Hershman for any
14 reason, please say so and I will give you as much time as you
15 need to consult with counsel because it is essential to a valid
16 plea that you understand every question before you answer.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: We've been over this before but just so
19 the record is clear, you are able fully to speak and understand
20 the English language; is that correct?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 Could you please for the record state your full name.

24 THE DEFENDANT: My full name is Evgeny Buryakov.

25 THE COURT: Would you spell for the record your last

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1 name, please?

2 THE DEFENDANT: B-u-r-y-a-k-o-v.

3 THE COURT: You are how old?

4 THE DEFENDANT: I am 41 years old.

5 THE COURT: And you are a citizen of what country?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Old Russian Federation.

7 THE COURT: How far did you go in school?

8 THE DEFENDANT: High education.

9 THE COURT: So would that be the equivalent of
10 university training in the United States?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Yes, I think so.

12 THE COURT: Any post-graduate studies?

13 THE DEFENDANT: No.

14 THE COURT: That was all in the Russian Federation,
15 your schooling?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: And are you now or have you recently been
18 under the care of a medical doctor or are you being treated by
19 a medical doctor for any reason?

20 THE DEFENDANT: No, I am not.

21 THE COURT: How about a mental health physician, are
22 you being treated for any mental health issues?

23 THE DEFENDANT: No. No.

24 THE COURT: And how is your health today, your
25 physical health?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: My physical health is good.

2 THE COURT: And your mental health?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Also is good.

4 THE COURT: Have you ever been addicted to drugs or to
5 alcohol?

6 THE DEFENDANT: No, never.

7 THE COURT: Have you ever been hospitalized or treated
8 for any addiction?

9 THE DEFENDANT: No, never.

10 THE COURT: Have you taken any drugs or medicine or
11 pills or drunk any alcoholic beverages in the past 24 hours?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No.

13 THE COURT: Anything that might affect your answers to
14 my questions?

15 THE DEFENDANT: No.

16 THE COURT: I asked before but I will ask it again,
17 how do you feel today physically?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I am completely good.

19 THE COURT: And mentally?

20 THE DEFENDANT: As well.

21 THE COURT: And you understand what is happening in
22 this proceeding here in court today?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

24 THE COURT: So here is a question for the lawyers: Do
25 either of you, that is to say counsel for the government or the

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1 defense, have any doubts or concerns as to Mr. Buryakov's
2 competence to plead at this time?

3 MR. QUIGLEY: No, your Honor.

4 MR. HERSHMAN: No.

5 THE COURT: Nor do I.

6 Based on the record today, including Mr. Buryakov's
7 statements, I find that he is fully competent to plead guilty
8 today.

9 Mr. Buryakov, have you been given a full opportunity
10 to discuss all aspects of this case with your attorney?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor, I have.

12 THE COURT: Including any possible defenses that you
13 might have to those charges in this case? It would be Count
14 One in the indictment to which you intend to plead guilty.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Are you fully satisfied with
17 Mr. Hershman's legal representation of you?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

19 THE COURT: Are you fully satisfied with the legal
20 advice that he has given you?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: So now I am going to explain certain
23 rights that you have and ask some questions about those. First
24 of all, do you understand that you have the absolute right to
25 plead not guilty and to go to trial in this case as we had

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1 scheduled for, I believe, April 4 was our plan? You understand
2 that you have the right to plead not guilty and to go to trial?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

4 THE COURT: Under the Constitution and laws of the
5 United States if you decided to have a trial, you would be
6 entitled to a speedy and public trial by a jury on the charges
7 set forth in the indictment.

8 Do you realize that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

10 THE COURT: If you decided to have a trial, at the
11 trial you would be presumed to be innocent. The government
12 would be required to prove that you were guilty by competent
13 evidence and beyond what we call a reasonable doubt before you
14 could be found guilty. A jury would have to agree unanimously
15 that you were guilty and you would not have to prove that you
16 were innocent.

17 Do you understand those rights?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

19 THE COURT: Also, at a trial if you decided to have
20 one and at every stage of your case, you would be entitled to
21 be represented by an attorney as you are today and have been in
22 fact throughout these proceedings. If you could not afford an
23 attorney, one would be appointed at public expense to represent
24 you.

25 Do you realize that?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: During a trial if you decided to have one,
3 the witnesses for the government would have to come to court
4 and testify in your presence. Your attorney could
5 cross-examine the witnesses for the government. He could
6 object to evidence offered by the government and he could offer
7 evidence and subpoena witnesses on your behalf.

8 Do you realize that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Also, at a trial if you decided,
11 Mr. Buryakov, to have one, although you would have the right to
12 testify if you chose to do so, you would also have the right
13 not to testify and no one, including particularly the jury,
14 could not draw any inference or suggestion of guilt from the
15 fact that you did not testify if that is in fact what you chose
16 to do.

17 Do you realize that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

19 THE COURT: Even now this morning as you are entering
20 the guilty plea, you still have the right to change your mind
21 and to plead not guilty and to go to trial on the charges set
22 forth in the indictment in this case.

23 Do you realize that?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: If you do plead guilty today and if I

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1 accept the guilty plea, then you will give up your right to
2 have a trial in this case and the other rights that I have been
3 discussing with you and there will be no trial, but I will
4 still enter a judgment of guilty against you following a
5 successful plea.

6 Do you realize that?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: I will thereafter, not today, sentence you
9 on the basis of your guilty plea after I have considered what
10 is called a presentence investigation report typically prepared
11 by the Probation Department, along with any submissions that I
12 may get from Mr. Hershman on your behalf and also any response
13 I may get from the government.

14 Do you realize that?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

16 THE COURT: The next question I ask you is whether you
17 have received and reviewed a copy of the superseding
18 indictment, which sets forth the two charges, two counts
19 against you?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.

21 THE COURT: Have you discussed fully with your
22 attorney those charges in the indictment, particularly Count
23 One, to which you intend to plead guilty today?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

25 THE COURT: Again, I know I asked this before but I

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1 want to underscore it. Are you fully satisfied with
2 Mr. Hershman's legal representation of you?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Are you fully satisfied with the legal
5 advice that he has given you?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Let me briefly summarize Count One.
8 Counsel will be given the opportunity to comment on the summary
9 and to add to it if they would like. I should say that the
10 count speaks for itself as set forth in S1 and this is just
11 intended for a brief summary of it.

12 MR. HERSHMAN: So Count One says that from in or about
13 2012 up to and including January 26, 2015, in the Southern
14 District, and elsewhere, Mr. Buryakov, and others, knowingly
15 and willfully conspired to commit an offense against the United
16 States. It was part and an object of that conspiracy that
17 Mr. Buryakov, not being a diplomatic or consular officer or
18 attaché, would and did act in the United States as an agent of
19 a foreign government, to wit, Mr. Buryakov agreed to act within
20 the United States under the direction and control of the
21 Russian Federation and one or more foreign officials working on
22 behalf of the Russian Federation without prior notification to
23 the United States Attorney General as required by law.

24 Counsel, did you want to add anything to that
25 sentence?

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1 MR. QUIGLEY: No, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman?

3 MR. HERSHMAN: No.

4 THE COURT: So let me spend a minute, Mr. Buryakov,
5 going over the maximum possible penalties you could receive for
6 this crime. That doesn't mean you will get the maximum, but
7 you need to know what the maximums are so we have a valid plea.

8 First of all, do you understand that the maximum term
9 of imprisonment for this crime is five years of imprisonment?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

11 THE COURT: Do you understand that the maximum term of
12 supervised release, which is a period of supervision that
13 occurs after incarceration in this case, the maximum could be
14 three years?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

16 THE COURT: Do you understand that the maximum fine
17 that could be imposed here is the greatest of \$250,000, twice
18 the gross pecuniary gain derived from the crime or twice the
19 gross pecuniary loss to persons, other than yourself, resulting
20 from this offense; do you realize that?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Do you also realize there would be a \$100
23 special assessment for this offense?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

25 THE COURT: Do you understand that we don't have

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1 parole in the federal system, which is where we are?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

3 THE COURT: And do you understand that as I mentioned
4 briefly, you may be subject in addition to incarceration to a
5 period of supervised release. With respect such supervision if
6 it comes into play, you need to be aware that there would
7 likely be terms and conditions attached and that if you did not
8 comply with any of those terms or conditions, you could
9 following a hearing be returned to prison.

10 Do you realize that?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

12 THE COURT: Do you understand that if there were
13 supervision and if there were allegations that you violated the
14 conditions of supervision and if there were a hearing
15 conducted, that would be a hearing just before me. It would
16 not be a jury proceeding.

17 Do you realize that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Do you understand that your not being an
20 American citizen that you are subject to deportation following
21 your conviction of this crime?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman, you can help with this, too.
24 Is Mr. Buryakov serving any other sentences, either state or
25 federal, or being prosecuted in any other courts for any crime?

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1 MR. HERSHMAN: No, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Is that right, Mr. Buryakov?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Next I just want to briefly mention the
5 factors that I would consider in sentencing. There is a
6 provision that we'll come to in a minute in the plea agreement
7 that says that both parties agree as between them the
8 appropriate sentence in this case would be 30 months of
9 incarceration. We'll come to that in a moment.

10 In figuring out what is a fair and reasonable
11 sentence, I will be guided by a statute referred to as 18,
12 United States Code, Section 3553(a) and the criteria for
13 conditions or objectives set forth in that statute are as
14 follows: One is the nature and the circumstances of the
15 offense or crime. The other is the history and characteristics
16 of Mr. Buryakov.

17 These are objectives that I will try to accomplish in
18 sentencing: Reflecting the seriousness of the offense,
19 promoting respect for the law, providing a just punishment,
20 affording adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, protecting
21 the public from further crimes, providing the defendant with
22 needed educational or vocational training, medical care or
23 other correctional treatment in the most effective manner. In
24 imposing the sentence I will be concerned with the kinds of
25 sentences that are available, the kind of sentence in the

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1 sentencing range.

2 In this case I think the parties agree there is no
3 sentencing guideline specifically for this offense; is that
4 your understanding?

5 MR. QUIGLEY: That is correct, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman, is that your understanding
7 as well?

8 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

9 THE COURT: I will seek to avoid unwarranted
10 sentencing disparities among similarly situated defendants and
11 inappropriate cases provide for restitution.

12 I don't think this is a restitution case; is that
13 right, counsel?

14 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman?

16 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Knowing Mr. Hershman he probably has
18 already started to discuss how sentencing happens, but I am
19 sure he will do that even more so after today.

20 Are you generally aware with how our courts go about
21 sentencing in your case?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

23 THE COURT: Do you realize that even if you don't like
24 the sentence that I impose, you will not be able for that
25 reason alone to withdraw today's guilty plea?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: So I am going to refer in a minute to a
3 few provisions of March 9 plea agreement. I caution that the
4 agreement speaks for itself in its entirety, and my referring
5 to one or two or three provisions is just for my own purposes
6 of the allocution but that the entire agreement applies in its
7 full content. So there is a provision in that agreement, which
8 is not uncommon for plea agreements, which says that the
9 sentence to be imposed upon the defendant, Mr. Buryakov, is
10 determined solely by the Court.

11 Let me start with counsel and ask if you agree with
12 that proposition?

13 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman?

15 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov, do you as well?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Do you think, Mr. Buryakov, that you
19 understand fully the consequences of pleading guilty here
20 today?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Has anybody threatened or in any way
23 forced you to plead guilty?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Including any attorneys?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: No.

2 THE COURT: So let me refer back to the plea
3 agreement. I know we went over this before, but I want to make
4 sure, Mr. Buryakov, that you went over this March 9, 2016, plea
5 agreement in detail and carefully with your attorney?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: And did you read it carefully and discuss
8 it with counsel to your satisfaction?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: So let me highlight one or two or three
11 provisions in this agreement.

12 First, as I mentioned a few minutes ago in the plea
13 agreement, the parties agree that a sentence of 30 months is
14 appropriate.

15 Counsel, is that a fair understanding?

16 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman?

18 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov, do you realize that?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

21 THE COURT: The parties further agree that the
22 applicable fine, the range in this case is somewhere between
23 \$10,000 and \$100,000; is that accurate?

24 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

25 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

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1 THE COURT: Do you understand that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: The parties further agree that neither
4 what we call a downward nor upward departure is warranted and
5 that they agree not to seek a sentence other than the
6 stipulated sentence of 30 months nor to suggest to the Court or
7 Probation another sentence.

8 Is that a fair assessment?

9 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

10 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Here we should spend a few minutes, too.
14 There are several waivers of the right to appeal in this case
15 and I want to go over each of those. First of all, there is a
16 provision in the plea agreement that says that the defendant
17 agrees not to file what we call a direct appeal nor to bring
18 what is called a collateral challenge including but not limited
19 to under what we call 28, United States Code, Sections 2255
20 and/or 2241 the so-called habeas corpus provisions.

21 And Mr. Buryakov also agrees to waive his right to
22 seek a sentence modification under 18, United States Code,
23 Section 3582(c) of any sentence that is at or below the
24 stipulated sentence of 30 months of incarceration. So there
25 are a series of the right to appeal.

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1 First of all, is that a affair assessment of the plea
2 agreement?

3 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

4 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov, you're aware that you are
6 waiving those appeal rights in this case?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

8 THE COURT: There are two additional waivers that I
9 wanted to talk about. There is also a provision that says that
10 Mr. Buryakov agrees not to challenge his conviction or
11 sentence, again either by direct appeal or through the habeas
12 corpus provisions of 28, United States Code, Sections 2255 or
13 2241 on the basis of any adverse immigration consequences that
14 might follow this conviction including deportation.

15 Is that your understanding, counsel for the
16 government?

17 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman?

19 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov, do you realize that?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: You also agree that you will not appeal,
23 Mr. Buryakov, any fine that is less than or equal to \$100,000.

24 Do I have that right, counsel?

25 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

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1 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Two more appeal waiver provisions. One is
4 that Mr. Buryakov agrees not to appeal any term of supervised
5 release that may be imposed that is less than or equal to three
6 years, which is the statutory maximum.

7 Do I have that right?

8 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

9 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Buryakov?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: And lastly there is a provision that
13 Mr. Buryakov agrees not to appeal or collaterally challenge his
14 conviction on the grounds that the government has failed to
15 produce discovery or otherwise turn over information to the
16 defendant.

17 Do I have that right?

18 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

19 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Finally, even though -- not finally but
22 finally in this regard. Even though I have asked this before,
23 Mr. Buryakov, do you agree that the sentence to be imposed upon
24 you remains within the sole discretion of the Court, that would
25 be me? You still agree with that?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

2 THE COURT: And counsel as well?

3 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

4 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Has anybody made any promise? Apart from
6 what is contained in the plea agreement, has anybody, Mr.
7 Buryakov, made any promise to you or inducement to cause you to
8 plead guilty today?

9 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Has anybody made any promise to you as to
11 what sentence you will receive in this case?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Including any attorneys?

14 THE DEFENDANT: No.

15 THE COURT: So let's turn for a moment to the
16 government. Could I ask the government to provide in summary
17 form what it thinks it would be able to prove were this case to
18 go to trial instead of being resolved in today's plea
19 allocution?

20 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor. The government would
21 prove that between approximately 2012 and 2015, the defendant
22 conspired to act as an agent of the Russian Federation in the
23 United States without providing prior notification to the
24 Attorney General. Specifically, the defendant conspired with
25 Igor Sporyshev, Victor Podobnyy and others to gather

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1 information in response to taskings. He provided that
2 information back to Mr. Sporyshev. The government would prove
3 that through recorded conversations, electronic evidence
4 obtained from computers, surveillance and testimony of law
5 enforcement and civilian witnesses, among other means.

6 THE COURT: The government would, I take it, be able
7 to prove that this occurred within the Southern District of New
8 York in part?

9 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: So, Mr. Buryakov, having heard the
11 government's summary of what it would be able to prove in this
12 case and in light of the questions I have asked you up until
13 now and the answers that you provided, is it your wish at this
14 time to plead guilty or to plead not guilty?

15 THE DEFENDANT: I plead guilty, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: So now I am going to ask you to tell me in
17 your own words what it is that you did that makes you believe
18 that you are guilty of the offense set forth in Count One of
19 the indictment, which is conspiracy to act in the United States
20 as an agent of the Russian Federation without previously
21 notifying the Attorney General.

22 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I knowingly agreed with
23 Igor Sporyshev, who I know to be an official of the Russian
24 Federation --

25 THE COURT: Excuse me for one second. You can remain

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1 seated. It will be important for to us hear. Please start
2 again.

3 THE DEFENDANT: So, your Honor, knowingly agreed with
4 Igor Sporyshev, who I knew to be an official of the Russian
5 Federation, namely an official with the New York Office of the
6 Trade Mission of the Russian Federation, that I would take
7 certain actions in the United States at Mr. Sporyshev's
8 direction, without my having provided notification as an agent
9 of the Russian Federation, as required, to the Attorney
10 General.

11 In furtherance of said agreement, in the Southern
12 District of New York, on or about May 21st, 2013, I used a
13 telephone to speak with Mr. Sporyshev about information that
14 Mr. Sporyshev wanted.

15 THE COURT: And did this activity of yours cover the
16 time period 2012 approximately to January 2015?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. It was 2015.

18 THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to this crime
19 because you are in fact guilty of it?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

21 THE COURT: Does the government counsel agree that
22 there is a sufficient factual predicate for today's guilty
23 plea?

24 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor. We believe that is a
25 legally sufficient allocution.

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1 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman, do you as well?

2 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: So do I. It is the finding of the Court
4 in this matter, U.S. v. Evgeny Buryakov, that the defendant is
5 fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that
6 he is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences
7 of today's guilty plea and that the plea of guilty is a knowing
8 and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact
9 supporting each of the essential elements of the offense set
10 forth in Count One of the superseding indictment.

11 It is the further finding of the Court that
12 Mr. Buryakov is also fully aware of the potential consequences
13 that result from waiving his various appeal rights and as
14 outlined in this plea allocution and in the plea agreement
15 dated March 9, 2016. He has knowingly and voluntarily done
16 that as well, namely, waived a series of rights to appeal that
17 he might otherwise have.

18 The plea is therefore accepted and the defendant is
19 now adjudged guilty of the crime set forth in Count One of the
20 superseding indictment.

21 Is there any reason that counsel is aware of why I
22 should not direct that a presentence report be prepared?

23 MR. QUIGLEY: No, your Honor.

24 MR. HERSHMAN: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman, do you wish to be present

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1 for any interview of Mr. Buryakov in connection with that
2 report?

3 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, please.

4 THE COURT: So I order that a presentence
5 investigation report be made but there be no interview of
6 Mr. Buryakov unless Mr. Hershman is given the opportunity to be
7 present at such interview.

8 Mr. Buryakov, in my opinion it is in your best
9 interest to cooperate with the Probation Department who
10 prepares this report since the report will be important in my
11 determining what a fair and reasonable sentence is in this
12 case. So I suggest that you tell them what they ask about, of
13 course consulting with Mr. Hershman, both the good things and
14 not so good things. Because if you don't disclose something
15 that they ask about and they, that is to say the Probation
16 Department, finds it out themselves, they may say that you were
17 not being truthful with them and that might not be helpful to
18 you.

19 You and Mr. Hershman and the government will have the
20 right and the opportunity to examine the presentence
21 investigation report before the sentencing date and to file any
22 objections. Your counsel and the government will also have, as
23 I indicated before, the right to make written submissions on
24 your behalf and also reflecting the government's response to
25 those submissions. So I urge you to review the presentence

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1 report carefully with your attorney, discuss it with him before
2 sentencing. If there are any mistakes in the report, please
3 point them out to your attorney so that he can point them out
4 to me before the sentencing and so that I don't proceed on the
5 basis of mistaken information.

6 So the date that I propose, if it is agreeable to
7 counsel for sentencing, is June 22, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

8 Does that work for everyone?

9 MR. QUIGLEY: That is fine with the government, your
10 Honor.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman, does that work for you that
12 date?

13 MR. HERSHMAN: It does work for me. If we can move it
14 up, I'll be happier.

15 THE COURT: I will be happy to do that. It is a
16 function of how long it takes to get the presentence report put
17 together.

18 MR. HERSHMAN: We'll certainly cooperate in expediting
19 that.

20 THE COURT: My experience would be that is about the
21 time it would take. If you want to try for something sooner
22 than that, that is fine with me.

23 MR. HERSHMAN: We can also consider waiving the 35
24 days, your Honor, if that would speed things up.

25 THE COURT: Let me look at the calendar.

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1 So how about, Mr. Hershman, May 25. That will be
2 about a month shorter. I am not sure it could be much shorter
3 than that.

4 MR. HERSHMAN: We appreciate that, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: If it came to that, would you be waiving
6 the 35-day period to review?

7 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

8 THE COURT: I will ask for an expedited presentence
9 report and you will both monitor, the government and you,
10 whether that in fact is happening.

11 MR. QUIGLEY: Judge, just in our collective experience
12 it does take about three months. We would like some time to
13 comment on it. So perhaps if it works with the Court's
14 schedule, maybe move 15 days back from June 22nd to early June
15 instead of a month back. That may prevent us from having to
16 adjourn this.

17 THE COURT: How about this: Why don't we keep this
18 May date as a target. If it turns out that you don't have an
19 adequate time to respond and you submit an application to speak
20 to Mr. Hershman and see if you can agree that we should push it
21 back, I will be happy to do that.

22 MR. QUIGLEY: Thank you, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: So we'll aim for May 25, 2016, at 11:00.
24 I will ask for an expedited presentence report.

25 As I say, Mr. Hershman, you will know sooner than I

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1 probably what the progress of that report is and the government
2 as well. You will let me know as we approach that date whether
3 that is going to work for both sides. I am sure we can reach
4 an accommodation if it does not.

5 So what I would like to do is if there is a written
6 submission to be made by the defense and you are ready to do
7 it, Mr. Hershman, if you could do it on or before May 11th. If
8 it works for the government, to respond on or before May 18.
9 We'll see if that works out and if it doesn't, I will expect to
10 hear from you.

11 MR. QUIGLEY: Thank you, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 So Mr. Buryakov is currently on remand of course as
14 you know, Mr. Hershman. Is it your intention to maintain that
15 status until the sentencing?

16 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor. It would be helpful
17 also if he could remain in the MCC here in New York.

18 THE COURT: I think that is likely. I think that is
19 likely to occur.

20 There was a defense application about bail, I will put
21 that aside or vacate that for the moment?

22 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes.

23 THE COURT: So I think that pretty much concludes our
24 work for today. Starting with the government, did you wish to
25 add anything to today's allocution proceeding?

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1 MR. QUIGLEY: No, your Honor. Thank you.

2 THE COURT: How about you, Mr. Hershman, did you want
3 to add anything?

4 MR. HERSHMAN: No. Thank you, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Finally, starting with the government, are
6 you satisfied with today's plea allocution?

7 MR. QUIGLEY: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Hershman?

9 MR. HERSHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: I think that concludes our work for today.
11 I will see you likely on May 25 or such other date as we
12 determine is appropriate. Thank you very much.

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